27th July 1957]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This Government have recommended to the Government of India to give high priority for the extension of the Railway line from Tirunelveli to Cape Comorin via Palayamkottai, Nanguneri, Panagudi and Vedakkankulam. The Railway authorities have recently completed a traffic survey for the Tirunelveli-Trivandrum link with a branch from Nagercoil to Cape Comorin.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is it a fact or has it been brought to the notice of this Government that the Government of India have decided not to extend or lay out fresh railway lines in the State of Madras for the coming five years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that it is not a fact and it need not be a surmise.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : May I know whether this line was included in the Second Five-Year Plan and subsequently dropped or postponed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no question of including or postponing it. The traffic survey is reported to have been completed and the financial implication is being studied by the Railway Board.

SRI D. S. AUTHIMOOLAM : இந்த ரயில்வே லைன் பிரையாரிடி லிஸ்டில் டாப்பில் வரும் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அப்படியானால் இப்போது எதாவது லிஸ்டு தயாரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று அறியவிரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : ஆறு லைன்களுக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுத்து இவற்றை அவசியம் போடவேண்டும் என்பதாக மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு நம் சர்க்கார் சிபார்சு செய்திருப்பதாகச் சொன்னேன். அந்த லிஸ்டில் திருநெல்வேலியில் இருந்து நாகர் கோயில் கன்னியா குமரிக்குப் போக இந்த ரயில்வே லைன் சேர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : In view of the strategic importance of this railway line, may I know whether our Government will urge on the Central Government to give it top priority?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am unable to appreciate very much the strategic importance of the railway line. Even without regard to the question of strategy, I say that the line is very important and that is why the Government have urged high priority for this line.

High Schools without Headmaster in Kanyakumari district

* 274 Q.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR (on behalf of Sri T. T. Daniel) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of High Schools in Kanyakumari district in which Headmasters have not been appointed?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Government have no information on the point. A report has been called for.